

Message Text

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NOTAL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CIVIS, CASC

SUBJECT: MOVEMENT OF VIETNAMESE EMIGRES TO U.S.

REF: BANGKOK 17608

1. REFTTEL REFERS TO SPECIFIC CASE OF 37 MEMBERS OF DAM FAMILY AND THE PROBLEM OF SOME MEMBERS NOT QUALIFYING FOR DERIVATIVE IMMIGRANT STATUS. CHIEF OF CONSULAR SECTION HAS SINCE HAD LONG DISCUSSION WITH AIR FRANCE REP IN BANGKOK RE MOVEMENT OF VIETNAMESE RELATIVES OF AMCITS AND OTHER THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS. WE BELIEVE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE WORTH DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION RELATIVE TO HANDLING OF DAM FAMILY CASE AND POSSIBLE RELATED FUTURE CASES GIVEN APPARENT DANGER IN REFUSING TO ACCEPT ALL FAMILY MEMBERS OF OFFICIALLY APPROVED EMIGRES FROM VIETNAM.

2. AIR FRANCE REP NOTED THAT OVER A YEAR AGO AIR FRANCE ASKED ITS OFFICE IN HO CHI MINH CITY TO DIS-

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CONTINUE ACCEPTING KOREAN DEPENDENTS FOR FLIGHTS TO BANGKOK BECAUSE SEVERAL SUCH DEPENDENTS HAD BECOME LONG-TERM OVERSTAYS HERE, CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR AIR FRANCE WITH THE RTG. AIR FRANCE HERE WANTED AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE KOREAN EMBASSY IN BANGKOK AND SUGGESTED MOVEMENTS BE STOPPED.

3. EVEN THOUGH AIR FRANCE HAS SINCE NOTIFIED ITS OFFICE IN HO CHI MINH CITY THAT PROBLEMS OF ONWARD MOVEMENT OF KOREAN DEPENDENTS HAVE BEEN IRONED OUT, NO KOREAN DEPENDENTS HAVE BEEN SLATED FOR AIR FRANCE FLIGHTS. AIR FRANCE REP STATES THAT PROBLEM IS NOT WITH AIR FRANCE IN VIETNAM, BUT WITH SRV AUTHORITIES. IT APPEARS THAT WHEN THE SRV IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS WERE FIRST INFORMED THAT A STOP HAD BEEN PLACED AGAINST KOREAN DEPENDENTS BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES WITH THE RTG, THOSE OFFICIALS MADE THE DECISION THAT NO FURTHER MOVEMENT OF KOREAN DEPENDENTS WOULD BE ALLOWED. AIR FRANCE CONTINUES TO PRESENT NAMES OF KOREAN NATIONALS AS SCHEDULED PASSENGERS AND VIETNAMESE IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO REMOVE THOSE NAMES FROM THE FINAL APPROVED MANIFESTS.

4. AIR FRANCE REP FURTHER INDICATED THAT WHILE THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT CURRENT IMIGRES ARE ALL IDENTIFIABLY ETHNIC CHINESE AND UNDOUBTEDLY CAPABLE OF MAKING PAYMENTS IN APPROPRIATE PLACES, HE ALSO SEES CURRENT FACT OF THEIR LEGAL DEPARTURES FOR THE U.S. AS A POSSIBLE SIGN OF EASING OF RESTRICTIONS BY SRV AUTHORITIES FOR AMERICAN DEPENDENTS. HIS REASONING WAS THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE APPLICANTS ACTUALLY TELL THE SRV AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION FOR THE EXIT PERMIT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE SRV KNOWS THE FINAL DESTINATION OF THE EMIGRE. FIRST, ALL CASES DESTINED FOR THE U.S. MUST BE CONFIRMED AS ACCEPTABLE BY AMEMBASSY BANGKOK. AIR FRANCE BANGKOK CHECKS WITH US, THEN TELEXES CONFIRMATION TO ITS OFFICE IN HO CHI MINH CITY. ALL SUCH COMMUNICATIONS CLEARLY STATE NAMES, ADDRESSES AND ULTIMATE STATESIDE DESTINATIONS AND ARE MADE VIA THE PUBLIC POST AND TELEGRAPH SYSTEM. SECOND, EVEN THOUGH TICKETS ARE NOMINALLY ISSUED BY AIR FRANCE, AIR VIETNAM ACUTALLY HANDLES ALL FINAL TICKETING. (THIS SEEMS TO BE A WAY OF ASSURING THAT AIR VIETNAM RECEIVES A COMMISSION ON EACH TICKET SOLD.) IN FACT, NINE OF THE THIRTEEN CASES WE HAVE HANDLED THUS FAR HAVE ARRIVED IN BANGKOK WITH PRE-PAID TICKETS WRITTEN ALL THE WAY TO THE UNITED STATES.

5. WE HAVE ASKED AIR FRANCE REP IF HE CAN OBTAIN FOR US ANY INFORMATION REGARDING POSSIBLE ACCEPTABILITY FOR MOVEMENT OF NON-ETHNIC CHINESE DEPENDENTS OF AMCITS IN VIETNAM AND HOW WE MAY BE ABLE TO FACILITATE OR ASSIST THEIR DEPARTURES. HE HAS INDICATED WILLING-

NESS TO COMMUNICATE BY LETTER WITH HIS AIR FRANCE
COLLEAGUES IN HO CHI MINH CITY. WE ARE CAUTIOUS
RATHER THAN SANGUINE ABOUT THE POSSIBLE RESPONSE,
BUT WILL KEEP THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF THE OUTCOME
OF THIS INQUIRY. DECON 6/21/79.
O'DONOHUE

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